

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE RELEASES AZ LEARNS DESIGNATIONS:  
1965 SCHOOLS EVALUATED – OVER 90% ARE PERFORMING WITH 320 SCHOOLS  
EXCELLING - THE HIGHEST DESIGNATION A SCHOOL CAN RECEIVE**

PHOENIX (EMBARGOED UNTIL OCTOBER 25, 2006) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne releases AZ Learns designations for 1965 schools. The Arizona accountability system, AZ Learns, gives schools achievement profiles that are listed as: Excelling; Highly Performing; Performing Plus; Performing; Underperforming and Failing.

“I am extremely proud of our schools. We are seeing a major increase in the number of excelling schools, which means students and teachers are setting the bar for higher academic achievement. We are seeing a number of our schools improving from highly performing to excelling and from performing to performing plus, a direction which indicates widespread improvement.”

The number of schools in each category for 2006 are: failing to meet academic standards (pending site visit) 8; underperforming 123; performing 609; performing plus 670; highly performing 235 and excelling 320.

“I encourage schools and parents to focus on the AZ Learns designations, which is a fair and accurate profile of the schools performance level, as opposed to federal standards, which contain a number of irrational elements and are not useful in evaluating schools. You can find detailed information about your school by going to our website and reviewing the school’s report card at [www.ade.az.gov](http://www.ade.az.gov).”

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